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With this number begins another volume—the ninth—of the B. C. MINING RECORD, and the opportunity is again afforded us of wishing our readers both at home and abroad a most happy and prosperous New Year. During 1901 the mining industry in British Columbia has had many difficulties of an exceptional character to contend against, and unexpected problems have presented themselves which even now are taxing the ingenuity and the thought of our ablest men to successfully solve; these disabilities, notwithstanding the progress within the past twelve months has been gratifyingly substantial, serving not only to renew our confidence in the great future we know awaits the development of our mineral resources, but also to spur us on to greater effort and achievement. In the present number it has been our aim to give a full and trustworthy detailed review of mining operations throughout the Province. Unfortunately, however, it has been found impossible owing to space limitations, to completely carry out this original conception; and we have been compelled, therefore, to hold over for another issue, a number of very valuable papers on the subject of recent developments in districts which, though not yet contributing materially to swell the aggregate of produced wealth, promise in the near future to become important factors in this regard. In concluding this brief introduction we desire to express our sincere thanks to our contributors, mining engineers, mine managers, the Department of Mines and others to whose hearty and generous co-operation and support we are so deeply indebted.

A REVIEW OF THE YEAR.

IN reviewing the year's operations in mining we have again to regret the absence of exact information. Instead of precise facts we have to be satisfied with generalities. The more the mining industry grows in importance the more it increases in complexity, and, in the absence of authentic statistics, the vaguer must any general review become. It would be hardly too much to say that the injury done to the name and reputation of the Province from the lack of information, equals, if it does not exceed, the drawbacks from which the mining industry has suffered during the past year, on account of market conditions, labour disputes and other disturbing factors combined. In season and out of season we have insisted that as some of our mines are owned in the United States, and some in Eastern Canada, and some in Great Britain, the proofs of growth and prosperity are broken up and divided, and not presented as a whole until so late a date that they fail of effect because new modifying circumstances have become operative by that time. For instance, during the year 1900 the output of lead from the Province increased 206 per cent. This startling and significant fact would surely, had it been presented in time, have drawn wide attention to the lead resources of the Province, and assisted the investment of capital in the development of that industry. But by the time it was published, the general impression was that this output had been merely a flash in the pan, and that, under the blighting influence of unfavourable market conditions, the lead industry of British Columbia had been practically extinguished, that the large output of 1900 was rather a tribute to temporary importance, than an indication of future possibilities. That this impression is a wholly false one will not be officially established until probably May or June of next year, and the recuperation of silver-lead mining already in progress, and which may be expected to continue during 1902, will have no official attention attracted to it until 18 months have elapsed. We often see expressions of wonder at the ignorance displayed by outsiders of the achievements, progress, and prospects of the industry of mining in this Province. But what is there to wonder at, when we, whose sole business it is to collect and chronicle the salient facts of the industry from month to month, are obliged, in presenting a review of the year, to apologise beforehand for its meagreness, crudity, and possible inaccuracy, for the simple reason that, instead of dealing with known facts, we are wandering in a maze of inference and conjecture.